Opening of more International Rail-Routes in the neighbouring countries

*505. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to open more international railway routes especially in the neighbouring countries; and

(b) if so,the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India and Pakistan have agreed to re-establish the Munabao-Khokhrapar rail route by 1st January, 2006.

Diseases due to Computer

†*508. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether excessive use of computer can render a person psychiatric patient;

(b) if so, the elaborate details thereof;

(c) the kind of diseases that can afflict the persons making excessive use of computers;

(d) whether Government have conducted any survey to find out this fact; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (e) Government is not aware of any authentic report of Psychiatric illness developing due to excessive use of computer. However, according to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) excessive use of computers for internet surfing or playing games is a form of addiction, as is the case of excessive viewing of television, which has been identified as a pathology behaviour. Systematic large scale study on the kind of diseases that can afflict persons making excessive use of computers has not been conducted in India. However, a study on computer

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

operators who are working under electronic performance monitors such as telecommunications, call centres, directory services etc. has shown that there is significantly higher incidence of morbidity such as job boredom, tension, anxiety and depression etc. among them.

Wild buffaloes

*509. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not ordered even a single census on the presence of wild buffaloes in dedicated sanctuaries;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Government are not interested in protecting wild buffaloes in the country;

(c) the reasons for the go-slow approach of Government with regard to census and surveys of wild life in the country;

(d) what steps would be taken to create a pro-active atmosphere in all matters related to wild life; and

(e) the immediate steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) National Wildlife Action Plan (2002—2016) already provides for status surveys of all rare and threatened species of flora and fauna which include wild buffaloes. The census of these animals has in the past been carried out by the states of Assam and Chhattisgarh where their population is mainly confined.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no go slow approach. Periodic census of major species of wild animals is carried out by the states. Central Government provides financial support for this purpose under the Centrally Sponsored Wildlife Schemes.

(d) The steps which are to be taken in all matters related to wildlife are mentioned in National Wildlife Action Plan (2002—2016). The important steps include strengthening and enhancing protected area network, effective management of protected areas, control of poaching and illegal trade in wild animals, monitoring and research, human resource development, people's participation in wildlife conservation etc.